11 December 2001

English only

Commission on Population and Development
Thirty-fifth session
1-5 April 2002
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its intersessional meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 7 and 8 November 2001

A. Background

1. At its thirtieth session, the Commission on Population and Development had authorized the Bureau, in preparation for its sessions, to hold intersessional meetings on a yearly basis. In follow-up to this decision, an intersessional meeting of the Bureau was convened at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 7 and 8 November 2001. Previous Bureau meetings had been held in 1996 (Brussels), 1997 (Mexico City), 1998 (Kuala Lumpur), 1999 (New York) and 2000 (Nairobi).

2. All members of the Bureau participated in the intersessional meeting. A complete list of participants is given in annex I to the present report.

B. Opening

3. The meeting was officially opened by Mr. Makoto Atoh, President of the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (Japan) and Chairman of the Commission on Population and Development. Mr. Atoh welcomed the members of the Bureau to the meeting and thanked the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat for its preparations in support of the meeting. An introductory statement was also made by Mr. Joseph Chamie, Director of the Population Division. Mr. Chamie welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of these intersessional meetings for the smooth workings of the Commission. Mr. Chamie summarized the issues that needed to be discussed by the Bureau, and reviewed the background material that had been made available.

C. Deliberations and recommendations

4. The deliberations of the Bureau were chaired by Mr. Atoh. The provisional agenda was discussed at the start of the intersessional meeting and the agenda, as adopted, is presented in annex II to this report.

5. The items discussed at the intersessional meeting covered the proposed agenda and organization of work of the Commission on Population and Development at its thirty-fifth session in 2002, the special theme and agenda of the thirty-sixth session of the Commission in 2003; the second quinquennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the

* E/CN.9/2002/1.

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International Conference on Population and Development[1] and other activities that might take place to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Programme of Action; resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 2001, held in July 2001, that had relevance for the work programme of the Commission; the deliberations of the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the subject of international migration and development[2] and other related matters.

6. The recommendations of the Bureau on the above items are presented in annex III to the present report. The Bureau reaffirmed the importance of its intersessional meetings in facilitating the work of the Commission.

Notes

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] See the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/56/167); and General Assembly resolution 56/203 of 21 December 2001.

Annex I

List of participants

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Annex II

Agenda of the intersessional meeting of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Commission on Population and Development:
   (a) Agenda, organization of work, and other matters relating to the thirty-fifth session of the Commission in 2002;
   (b) Special themes and agenda of the thirty-sixth session of the Commission in 2003;
   (c) Second quinquennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, scheduled for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission in 2004;
   (d) Relevant resolutions and decisions recently adopted by the Economic and Social Council;
   (e) Other issues.
4. Related matters.
5. Conclusions.
6. Closing of the meeting.

Annex III

Recommendations of the Bureau

I. Recommendations concerning the organization of work and working methods for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission

1. The Bureau recommended the organization of work of the Commission at its thirty-fifth session as shown in appendix I to the present annex.

2. The Bureau recommended that a special discussant be designated to launch the debate on the concise report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring, 2002: reproductive rights and reproductive health, with special reference to human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (E/CN.9/2002/2).

3. The Bureau recommended the convening of a panel to discuss the special theme of reproductive rights and reproductive health. The panel should be undertaken under agenda item 4 (General debate on national experience in population matters: reproductive rights and reproductive health, with special reference to human immunodeficiency virus/ acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)), and be convened as the afternoon meeting on the second day of the session of the Commission. The panel should be geographically balanced and include a Chairman. The Bureau asked that the panel consider the diversity of issues that fell under the subject of reproductive rights and reproductive health.

4. The Bureau discussed the organization of work for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission. With respect to item 3 of the provisional agenda (see appendix I), the Bureau recommended that the order of work should be (a) sequential introduction of the reports of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring, 2002 (E/CN.9/2002/2), monitoring of population programmes (E/CN.9/2002/3) and the flow of financial resources (E/CN.9/2002/4), with five minutes allotted for introduction of each report; (b) presentation by the special discussant; and (c) discussion by Member States and other Commission participants.

5. The Bureau recommended that interventions by delegations during the debate on national experiences concentrate on the special theme of the Commission. Oral presentations should be about five minutes in length. Delegations wishing to prepare lengthier statements could make them available in writing.

6. The Bureau recommended that representatives of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Statistical Commission be invited to make presentations at the session of the Commission on Population and Development, in order to keep the Commission on Population and Development informed on interrelated activities undertaken by other Commissions, as well as on other 10-year reviews of the outcomes of major conferences in the social and economic area. The Bureau also recommended that a representative of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS) be invited to make a presentation on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS and other activities of UNAIDS relevant to the deliberations of the Commission.

7. The Bureau recommended that a working group be established at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission in order to discuss issues that might result in resolutions or decisions. The working group should begin its work on the afternoon of the first day of the session of the Commission. The Bureau also recommended that the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat prepare initial drafts of resolutions and decisions that might facilitate its work, including variants for resolutions where there were likely to be diverse viewpoints. The Commission might wish to consider resolutions concerning, among other issues, the special theme of reproductive rights and reproductive health, including further research on the demographic impact of HIV/AIDS; the second quinquennial review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to be undertaken by the Commission at its thirty-seventh session in 2004; and additional options for marking the 10-year

anniversary of the adoption of the Programme of Action.

8. The Bureau stressed the importance of the timely availability of documents for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission in order to facilitate preparations of statements by delegations. The Bureau endorsed the posting of advance unedited versions of the documents on the Internet.

9. The Bureau recommended that the Director of the Population Division organize a briefing for delegations before the thirty-fifth session of the Commission on the status of documents, organization of work, and resolutions or decisions that were likely to be considered by the Commission.

II. Recommendations concerning the work programme for future sessions of the Commission

10. The Bureau took note of Commission decision 2000/1 in which the Commission decided that "Population, education and development" should be the special theme for the Commission at its thirty-sixth session in 2003.

11. Recalling General Assembly resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994 on the report of the International Conference on Population and Development and Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/55 of 28 July 1995 on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference, the Bureau endorsed the second quinquennial review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action, to be undertaken by the Commission at its thirty-seventh session in 2004. At its thirty-seventh session, the focus of the Commission should be on the second quinquennial review and appraisal, with no additional special theme.

12. The Bureau considered possible options, in addition to the second quinquennial review and appraisal, for an event in 2004 marking the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Bureau expressed a diversity of views and recommended that the Commission discuss the options at its thirty-fifth session. The Bureau emphasized the importance of the Commission's coming to a decision during the thirty-fifth session in order that there might be sufficient time to undertake necessary preparatory activities.

III. Recommendations concerning the work programme of the Bureau

13. The Bureau recommended that it should meet on the morning of 1 April 2002, prior to the opening of the thirty-fifth session of the Commission, to review and discuss preparations for the meeting of the Commission.

14. The Bureau took note of the summary report of its meeting with the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council (see appendix II), emphasized the usefulness and the importance of such annual meetings to enhance coordination and information-sharing, and recommended that such meetings continue to be held at the time of the annual sessions of the Commission.

15. The Bureau took note of the letter dated 8 October 2001 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the chairmen of the functional commissions concerning the outcomes of the substantive session of 2001 of the Council. The Bureau considered the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 2001. In particular, the Bureau reviewed Council resolution 2001/27 of 26 July 2001 on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B: improving the working methods of the functional commissions of the Council, Council resolution 2001/41 of 26 July 2001 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, and Council resolution 2001/21 of 26 July 2001 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits.

IV. Recommendations regarding the work programme of the Secretariat in the field of population

16. The Bureau took note of the work programme of the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat and stressed the importance of the Population Division's continuing to maintain a comprehensive approach to population and development issues. In particular, the Bureau

recommended that the Division continue to investigate new and emerging issues.

17. The Bureau recommended that the Population Division convene technical meetings to shed light on key population concerns of the international community, including those related to the special themes of the Commission.

18. The Bureau welcomed the work programme of the Population Division in measuring the demographic impact of HIV/AIDS, Government policies related to HIV/AIDS, and behaviour and awareness of HIV/AIDS in less developed countries. The Bureau recommended that the Population Division seek funding for, and convene, a technical meeting on the methodologies for studying the demography of HIV/AIDS.

19. The Bureau considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty-first session (11 June-6 July 2001)[a] and the in-depth evaluation of the population programme,[b] and took note of the steps being undertaken by the Population Division to implement the recommendations of the Committee.

20. A concern was expressed about the large number of questionnaires addressed to Governments requesting information related to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits.

Notes

[a] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/56/16).

[b] Ibid., chap. III, sect. B.2.

Appendix I

Provisional organization of work of the Commission on Population and Development at its thirty-fifth session

Date/time	*Agenda item*	
Week of 1-5 April 2002		
Monday, 1 April		
Morning	Item 1	Election of officers
	Item 2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
		(a) Report of the intersessional meeting of the Bureau
		(b) Agenda and organization of work
	Item 3	Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development
		Concise report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring, 2002, focusing on reproductive rights and reproductive health, with special reference to human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), as contained in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2002/2)
		Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring of population programmes focusing on reproductive rights and reproductive health, with special reference to human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), as contained in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2002/3)
		Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2002/4)
Afternoon	Item 3	Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development (*continued*)
		Simultaneous with plenary: informal consultations to discuss draft resolutions

Date time	*Agenda item*	
Tuesday, 2 April		
Morning	Item 4	General debate on national experience in population matters: reproductive rights and reproductive health, with special reference to human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), as contained in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development *Simultaneous with plenary: informal consultations to discuss draft resolutions*
Afternoon	Item 4	General debate on national experience (*continued*): Panel discussion on reproductive rights and reproductive health
Wednesday, 3 April		
Morning	Item 4	General debate on national experience (*continued*) *Simultaneous with plenary: informal consultations to discuss draft resolutions*
Afternoon	Item 5	Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population, 2001 (E/CN.9/2002/5) *Simultaneous with plenary: informal consultations to discuss draft resolutions* *Deadline for submission of draft proposals under items 3, 4 and 5*
Thursday, 4 April		
Morning	Item 6	Provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2002/L.2) *Simultaneous with plenary: informal consultations to discuss draft resolutions*
Afternoon		Informal consultations
Friday, 5 April		
Morning and afternoon	Item 7	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-fifth session

Appendix II

Summary report on the joint meeting of the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council and the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development

(New York, 5 April 2001)

1. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Martin Belinga-Eboutou (Cameroon). Also in attendance were Mr. Ivan Šimonović (Croatia), Mr. Francisco Seixas da Costa (Portugal) and representatives of Costa Rica and the Syrian Arab Republic, representing the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council. The Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development was represented by the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Makoto Atoh (Japan), and Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Gediminas Šerkšnys (Lithuania), Mr. José Roberto Andino Salazar (El Salvador) and Mr. Antonio Golini (Italy).

2. The meeting was opened by Mr. Belinga-Eboutou. He noted that the Commission was a technical body that considered serious issues in a highly professional way. He pointed out that the meeting was part of a series of meetings between the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council and the bureaux of the functional commissions, which provided an opportunity to exchange views and to help the Council provide guidance to its subsidiary bodies. Referring to the agenda of the meeting, he said one of the main concerns was the Council's high-level segment dealing with Africa and asked how the Commission could contribute towards that end.

3. The Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Atoh, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to exchange views with the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council and explained that, in order to avoid duplication and coordinate with other commissions on cross-cutting issues and related themes, the Commission received briefings on the work programme of other functional commissions. At the last intersessional meeting of the Bureau, held in Nairobi, it had been recommended that the representatives of other functional commissions be invited to speak on their activities on conferences reviews, including the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS) on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (see E/CN.9/2001/CRP.1, annex III, para. 7). Accordingly, the previous day, the Commission had received briefings from representatives of four commissions and UNAIDS. It also heard annually from the regional commissions and specialized agencies and funds of the United Nations system. In particular, it undertook very close collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund on many areas of common interest and invited it to participate in the meetings of its Bureau. The Chairman of the Commission went on to say that the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, which served as the secretariat of the Commission, also kept the Commission informed of the activities of other intergovernmental bodies. He also mentioned that, for the sake of continuity, the Commission had re-elected one member of the Bureau of the previous session of the Commission.

4. Regarding possible contribution of the commissions to the work of the Economic and Social Council in 2001, the Chairman of the Commission mentioned the 2001 report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/2001/4) which, while covering all countries of the world, had paid special attention to Africa in examining the affects of HIV/AIDS in the region. The Commission considered HIV/AIDS a key issue in the area not only of health, but also of population. In the area of knowledge-based technologies, the Population Division's Population Information Network (POPIN)-related activity promoted the use of the Internet for population information and the Commission encouraged national and regional capacity-building in cooperation with the regional commissions and non-governmental organizations. Regarding agenda item 3 (Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development), the Chairman reported the discussion in the Commission on the agreed conclusions of the Council and indicated that the working group would come up with

suggestions in that regard. He also pointed out that the Commission would provide support not only to the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, but also to the Second World Assembly on Ageing.

5. Mr. Belinga-Eboutou thanked the Chairman of the Commission for his detailed briefing and indicated his satisfaction with the manner in which the Commission had followed the guidance of the Economic and Social Council, especially with regard to steps undertaken in establishing closer links with other functional commissions. Mr. Šimonović requested further information, specifically on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and asked to what extent the Commission was in contact with non-governmental organizations. The meeting was informed that negotiations were continuing on follow-up activities to the Programme of Action. It was stated that the Commission had a long tradition of involving non-governmental organizations in population-related work and the Cairo conference had increased their involvement a great deal.

6. In response to a question from Mr. Seixas da Costa regarding the contribution of the Commission to the theme of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2001 of the Economic and Social Council, namely, "The role of the United Nations in supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development", and to the theme of the coordination segment, namely, "The role of the United Nations in promoting development, particularly with respect to access to and transfer of knowledge and technology, especially information and communication technologies (ICT), inter alia, through partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector", the meeting was informed that the Commission's reports on population could be used for the Council's high-level segment on Africa. With respect to ICT, the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council was informed that two workshops had taken place in Burkina Faso and the Niger to build capacity on the use of electronic technologies for population and development research in francophone African countries and for strengthening ICT-based collaboration among population research and training institutions in the region.

7. The representative of Costa Rica asked about the private sector's interest and involvement in the work of the Commission and what the Commission was doing on the exchange of experiences among various regions. The meeting was informed that regular participation of the regional commissions in the sessions of the Commission provided feedback on regional experiences. Also, other regions participated through the United Nations system in regional meetings to exchange experiences and learn from each other. Private sector involvement mainly involved the private sector's using United Nations data for marketing health facilities; however, pursuant to the Secretary-General's Global Compact with business, the contacts between the two were expected to grow into closer cooperation in a wider range of population areas.